

REMARKS

Receipt of the Office Action of March 1, 2004 is gratefully acknowledged.

Claims 5 - 8 were presented for examination. Of these claims, claims 5 and 6 were elected and claims 7 - 8 were withdrawn from further consideration in this application. Elected claims 5 and 6 have been rejected as follows: 1) Claim 6 as indefinite under 35 USC 112, second paragraph; 2) Claim 5 as anticipated under 35 USC 102(a) over Aida (JP 11 - 185763); and 3) Claim 6 as unpatentable under 35 USC 103(a) over Aida.

Regarding 1), it is noted that the phrase "opening ratio" means what the examiner has indicated so that clearly the phrase cannot be indefinite. Specifically, "opening ratio" means the percentage of the total area of the rectangular area that is occupied by the opening area. Since the examiner was able to understand the meaning there is no need to amend claim 6 to alter this phrase.

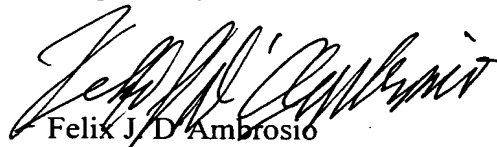
Regarding 2), claim 5 has been amended to state that each convex portion has a petaloid shape and a V-shaped valley formed between adjacent petaloid pieces. See page 7 , lines 7 - 16. From this disclosure it is understood that four petaloid shaped pieces are 13a are developed and a V-shaped valley is formed between adjacent petaloid shaped pieces. See, also Figs 2 and 3. This configuration of the convex portions is not taught or suggested by Aida so that Aida cannot anticipate claim 5 as amended.

Regarding 3) it is respectfully submitted that claim 6 which depends from claim 5 as now amended further distinguishes over Aida and with specifically defined parameters which are not found in Aida.

The present invention as so configured so that the valleys hold the active material. As a result, the filling amount of the active material can be enlarged so that capacity is increased and the conductivity with respect to the active material is improved. This cannot be expected from Aida because it does not disclose the configuration of the present invention.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and re-examination are respectfully requested and claims 5 and 6 found allowable.

Respectfully submitted,


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